



Post 160 Legion Family Breaks Ground, from left are Building Committee members: Charles Barrett, Sr Vice Cmdr, Post 160; June Burgess, President, Auxiliary Unit 160, Rick Stewart, Post 160 Member, Bill Lienhop, Past Cmdr, Post 160 & 5th Dist, Dennis Barlow, Post 160 Member & Building Project Manager, Pete Thiel, Finance Officer, Sons of The American Legion; Wade Lnenicka, Post 160 Member, Smyrna Mayor Pro Tem, and Ward 6 Councilman; Jim Turner, Past Cmdr, Post 160 & Building Committee Chairman; Hal Reeves, Adjutant, Post 160. Not pictured, Keith Hardman, Commander, Post 160. Photo by Hal Reeves.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 160 BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BUILDING

By Pete Thiel & Hal Reeves

Smyrna American Legion Post 160 hosted its annual Independence Day Celebration with the traditional barbecue luncheon, followed by groundbreaking ceremonies for the Legion's new Post Home. Numerous raffles, cake walks, and musical entertainment followed, which lasted well into the evening.

The Groundbreaking for the New Post Home began with an Invocation given by Harold Mines, Chaplain, Post 160. Charles Barrett, Sr. Vice Commander, Post 160 and June Burgess, President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 160 followed with a Welcome from The Legion Family. Barrett was standing in for Keith Hardman, Commander, Post 160, who has been sidelined recently due to illness.

Dennis Barlow, Post 160 Building Committee Project Manager remarked on the design and features of the new Post Home and the construction schedule which is expected to commence in late July and be completed in March, 2008.

The American Legion first formed a Post in Smyrna in 1941. After numerous fundraising events, Post 160 purchased the property where the existing building stands in 1947 and

erected the current Post Home in 1948. The Post Home was expanded in 1953-1954 and has remained largely unchanged since that point.

Now, after many years, there's going to be a big change on Legion Drive. Post 160 will be retiring its existing building after 60 years of service and will be building a new Post Home on adjacent property. This new, ADA compliant, building will overlook Brinkley Park and will be located next to James Place along Concord Road.

The City of Smyrna purchased much of the property on which the present Post sits and will be expanding Brinkley Park to include more baseball fields and a passive walking trail. Some of the proceeds from this sale will be used to fund the construction of the new Legion building.

As an additional fund raiser, Post 160 is sponsoring a "Buy-A-Brick Campaign", selling engraved brick pavers which will be placed in front of the building around a flag review area. Order forms to purchase a brick for any veteran, friend, family member, or business are available at the current Post on Legion Drive, the Smyrna Community Center, and on the web: americanlegionpost160.org.